

IWP Hosts SPSC

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J. David Donahue

Commissioner



Indianapolis, IN - (September 6, 2007) - The Indianapolis Women's Prison hosted the second meeting of the Indiana Sentencing Policy Study Committee. Committee Chair Brent Steele (Senator from Bedford, Indiana), along with other members of the Committee began the meeting with a tour of the facility, where they had an opportunity to speak with inmates and inspect the facility housing units, including its faith and character housing unit program called "PLUS" (Purposeful Living Units Serve), its Community Outreach Program, and its educational programming. Other stops on the tour included the facility's ICAAN Canine Assistance program in which female offenders help train dogs so that can assist the handicapped, IWP's building trades program, its disciplinary segregation unit, and its medical facilities.

Following the tour, they convened to study issues regarding Indiana's Sex and Violent Offender Registry, and other sentencing policy matters. In addition to Senator Steele, others in attendance included Sen. Richard Bray, Sen. Lindel Hume, Rep. Linda Lawson, Rep. Ralph Foley, and Rep. Bruce Borders. Members from outside the Legislature included Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue, Judge Frances Gull of Allen County, Steve Johnson of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council, Hendricks County Chief Probation Officer R. Todd McCormick, Larry Landis from the Public Defender's Council, Director Sheila Hudson from the Allen County Community Corrections, and Executive Director Mike Cunegin from Indiana's Criminal Justice Institute.

Ms. Zettie Cotton, Superintendent of the Indiana Women's Prison, welcomed these visitors at the start of

the meeting, and commented afterward "It is great that this Facility is located in the State's capitol, to allow us the opportunity and honor to host this important meeting of lawmakers and other stakeholders."

Commissioner Donahue explained that "the goal of hosting this meeting at a correctional facility was to provide members of this Committee some insight on what facilities actually do to prepare offenders for successful release back to their communities, and what tremendous effort is made on a day-to-day basis by hardworking Department staff and volunteers."

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About The Villages

The Villages is Indiana's largest nonprofit child and family services agency, with nearly 30 years of experience working throughout Indiana to ensure that children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected can be raised in a loving family setting. In addition to foster care and adoption, current services include: Healthy Families services, individual and group counseling, child care services, family preservation and reunification services, and independent and transitional living services.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.